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ABSTRACT

This book describes a highly successful mentorship program in "how-to" terms that are easily applied and adaptable to a variety of situations. Following an introduction, chapter 1 addresses the question: When does a student really need the help of a professional mentor? Chapters 2-7 examine the underlying principles of the mentor program. Chapter 2 presents methods for checking students' readiness for a formal mentorship. The topic of chapter 3 is the mentor seminar, through which students finalize their preparation for the mentor program. Chapter 4 examines the process of finding mentors and supporting them in their efforts to work effectively with students. Chapter 5 includes strategies for reinforcing and advancing skills students develop in preparation for the mentorship and for clear and efficient communications with students and mentors. It describes the teacher's role in effectively monitoring each student's progress and guiding the class as a unit. Chapter 6 explores the role of school personnel, parents, and community members within the program. Chapter 7 discusses the recognition and evaluation that complete the cycle of one school year and generation of a vision for the next. Chapter 8 provides information to persuade others to become involved. Chapter 9 presents an example of one student's growth as a direct result of his experience in the mentor program. Sample forms are provided throughout. References are listed at the end of each chapter (a total of 154). (YLB)

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